

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for adding computer software features dynamically to a software application by establishing a framework for a application programming interface (API) that adds a feature to an application, the method comprising:
requesting from an application interworking framework a feature matching a consumer interest of a consumer application;
using the consumer interest and a feature capability to identify a provider;
providing the feature, if the provider is identified, to the consumer application; and
utilizing the feature at the consumer application.
2. The method claim 1, further comprising using generic parameters in application interworking framework application programming interfaces (APIs).
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the application interworking framework interfaces the consumer application with the feature provider.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the application interworking framework interfaces the consumer application with the feature provider using dynamic link library (DLL) function calls.
5. The method of claim 1, further comprising adding a feature user interface element along with the feature.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the feature user interface element comprises menu commands and a setting page or other user interface elements.
7. The method of claim 5, wherein the application interworking framework implements two application programming interfaces (APIs), including a consumer API and a set of provider APIs, wherein the provider APIs match the desired user interface elements.

8. A device that adds features dynamically to a software application such that a feature provided by a software program can be added to a software platform program for the device, the device comprising:

a consumer application that publishes a feature interest indicating what features the said consumer application desires to have;

at least one provider application that has at least one feature available;
and

an application interworking framework that provides an interface for the said consumer application and the said provider application such that the said feature interest is matched with one of the features available from the said provider application.

9. The device of claim 8, wherein the new consumer application is an application provided by a terminal manufacturer.

10. The device of claim 8, wherein the new consumer application is an application provided by a third party to a user of the device.

11. The device of claim 8, wherein the new consumer application integrates into the device as if part of an original group of software applications for the device.

12. The device of claim 8, wherein generic parameters are used in application interworking framework application programming interfaces (APIs).

13. The device of claim 8, wherein the feature interest of the new consumer application comprises menu options not on the device before introduction of the new consumer application to the device.

14. The device of claim 8, wherein the user interface elements corresponding to the matched features are placed in the interest placeholders.

15. The device of claim 8, wherein the consumer application is a new consumer application.

16. The device of claim 8, wherein the at least one feature available is a user interface feature based on the feature interest.

17. A system for adding features dynamically to a software application, the system comprising:

a consumer application that publishes a feature interest and identifies user interface resources needed based on the feature interest;

a provider application that publishes a provider capability and identifies user interface resources available for a feature; and

an application interworking framework that provides an interface for the consumer application and the provider application such that the feature interest is matched with the provider capability and the user interface elements are added from the provider application to the consumer application.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the consumer application interfaces with the application interworking framework using an application programming interface (API).

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the consumer application obtains user interface elements from other providers.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the client device is a mobile telephone.

21. A computer program product comprising:

computer code configured to:

provide a consumer application interest resource for a consumer application specifying at least one user interface element;

store user interface element corresponding to the consumer application interest resource in a file;

communicate said user interface element to an application interworking framework; and

add said user interface element to the consumer user interface.

22. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer code to generate a class of generic parameters.

23. The computer program product of claim 21, further comprising computer code to pass arguments within the application interworking framework.